IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 12 and 21 as set forth below.

Claims 1-11 were previously canceled.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for making a blow molded plastic container, the method comprising:

~~(a)~~ providing a sheet of thermoplastic material;

~~(b)~~ securing at least a portion of the sheet;

~~(c)~~ providing a mold having a mold surface;

~~(d)~~ forming at least a portion of the sheet against the mold surface to shape a preform having an upper rim-forming portion;

~~(e)~~ separating the preform having an upper rim-forming portion from the sheet;

~~(f)~~ blow molding the preform to form a container having a central vertical axis, an oriented neck portion and an upper rim including a planar inner edge, an outer edge, and an inner radial edge; and

~~(g)~~ mechanically forming at least a portion of the outer edge of the upper rim wherein the planar inner edge and the inner radial edge of the container intersect to form a substantially perpendicular corner that is substantially square when viewed in cross section ~~to provide additional strength and rigidity~~.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the blow molded container further includes a means to accept a closure.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said means to accept a closure is oriented.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said means to accept a closure includes a threaded portion.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the upper rim-forming portion of the preform is secured prior to blow molding the container.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the plane formed by the inner edge of the upper rim is substantially perpendicular to the central vertical axis of the container.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the plane formed by the inner edge is substantially perpendicular to the plane formed by the inner radial edge.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12, including the additional step of heat-treating at least a portion of the mechanically formed upper rim to impart an additional level of crystallization.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12, including the step of mechanically finishing at least a portion of the top surface of the upper rim.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for making a blow molded plastic container, the method comprising:

~~(a)~~ providing a plastic preform;

~~(b)~~ blow molding the preform to form an intermediate article having a central vertical axis; an upper discard portion; and upper rim having a planar inner edge, an outer edge, and an inner radial edge; an oriented neck portion, a lower body portion, and a closed base portion;

~~(c)~~ removing the upper discard portion from the intermediate article; and

~~(d)~~ mechanically forming at least a portion of the outer edge of the upper rim wherein the planar inner edge and the inner radial edge of the container intersect to form a substantially perpendicular corner that is substantially square when viewed in cross section ~~to provide additional strength and rigidity~~.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the neck portion includes a means to accept a closure.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said means to accept a closure is oriented.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said means to accept a closure includes a threaded portion.

25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the plane formed by the inner edge of the upper rim is substantially perpendicular to the plane formed by the inner radial edge.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21, including the step of heat-treating at least a portion of the mechanically-formed upper rim to impart additional crystallization.

27. (Original) The method of claim 21, including the step of mechanically finishing at least a portion of the top surface of the upper rim.

Cancel claims 28 and 29.